

**To:** Stanislaus, Mathy[Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Natarajan, Nitin[Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov]; Fritz, Matthew[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov]; Vaught, Laura[Vaught.Laura@epa.gov]; Distefano, Nichole[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov]; Mitchell, Stacey[Mitchell.Stacey@epa.gov]; Harrison, Melissa[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Thur 10/22/2015 6:17:36 PM  
**Subject:** RE: FINAL DOI/Reclamation Gold King Mine Report - Embargoed for Public Release to 2PM

Thanks. Updated below. We are going to use this.

EPA requested the Department of Interior report, Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident, to provide an independent assessment of factors that contributed to the August 5, 2015 Gold Mine incident. EPA will carefully review the report. This report in combination with the findings of EPA's internal review of the incident, will help inform EPA's ongoing efforts to work safely and effectively at mine sites as we carry out our mission to protect human health and the environment.

**From:** Stanislaus, Mathy  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 2:16 PM  
**To:** Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Natarajan, Nitin <Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov>; Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>; Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Stacey <Mitchell.Stacey@epa.gov>; Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: FINAL DOI/Reclamation Gold King Mine Report - Embargoed for Public Release to 2PM

See revisions to first two sentences.

EPA requested the Department of Interior report, *Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident*, to provide an independent assessment of factors that led contributed to August 5, 2015 Gold Mine incident. EPA will carefully review the report.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 22, 2015, at 2:06 PM, Purchia, Liz <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)> wrote:

Initial post by AP is out.

Mathy – Please let us know if you're ok with this.

EPA requested the Department of Interior report, *Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident*, to provide an independent assessment of the factors that led to the accidental discharge of water from the mine on August 5, 2015.

Now that DOI's assessment is complete, EPA will carefully review DOI's findings and recommendations. This report in combination with the findings of EPA's internal review of the incident, will help inform EPA's ongoing efforts to work safely and effectively at mine sites as we carry out our mission to protect human health and the environment.

### **Associated Press**

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/7d8b2899205646fcbe5f62bc35c29554/apnewsbreak-epa-mine-spill-could-have-been-prevented>

### **EPA mine spill could have been prevented**

By MATTHEW BROWN

Oct. 22, 2015 1:49 PM ED

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Government investigators squarely blame the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a 3 million gallon wastewater spill from a Colorado gold mine, saying a cleanup crew rushed its work and failed to consider the complex engineering involved, triggering the very blowout it hoped to avoid.

The Interior Department probe concludes that the spill that fouled rivers in three states would have been avoided had the EPA team checked on water levels before digging into the mine.

The Associated Press obtained the investigation's findings on the Aug. 5 spill prior to their public release on Thursday. The 132-page report has implications across the United States, where hundreds of thousands of abandoned mines have yet to be cleaned up.

**From:** Natarajan, Nitin

**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 9:01 AM

**To:** Fritz, Matthew <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>; Vaught, Laura <[Vaught.Laura@epa.gov](mailto:Vaught.Laura@epa.gov)>; Distefano, Nichole <[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)>; Mitchell, Stacey <[Mitchell.Stacey@epa.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Stacey@epa.gov)>; Purchia, Liz <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)>; Harrison, Melissa <[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: FINAL DOI/Reclamation Gold King Mine Report - Embargoed for Public Release to 2PM

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Nitin Natarajan

Deputy Assistant Administrator

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Environmental Protection Agency

202-566-0200 Office

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Brooks, Becky" <[Brooks.Bekky@epa.gov](mailto:Brooks.Bekky@epa.gov)>

**Date:** October 22, 2015 at 08:49:29 EDT

**To:** "Natarajan, Nitin" <[Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov](mailto:Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Fw: FINAL DOI/Reclamation Gold King Mine Report - Embargoed for

**Public Release to 2PM**

So you have as well.

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**From:** Hilosky, Nick  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 8:44 AM  
**To:** Breen, Barry; Deitz, Randy; Lowery, Brigid; Cohen, Nancy; Woolford, James; Stalcup, Dana; Cheatham, Reggie; Tulis, Dana  
**Cc:** Brooks, Becky  
**Subject:** FW: FINAL DOI/Reclamation Gold King Mine Report - Embargoed for Public Release to 2PM

Close hold until later today.

**From:** DuBray, Daniel [<mailto:ddubray@usbr.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 8:30 AM  
**To:** Stalcup, Dana <[Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov](mailto:Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov)>; Stanislaus, Mathy <[Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov](mailto:Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov)>; [purchic.luz@epa.gov](mailto:purchic.luz@epa.gov)  
**Cc:** David Palumbo <[dpalumbo@usbr.gov](mailto:dpalumbo@usbr.gov)>; Robert Quint <[bquint@usbr.gov](mailto:bquint@usbr.gov)>; Thomas Luebke <[tluebke@usbr.gov](mailto:tluebke@usbr.gov)>; Jessica Kershaw <[jessica\\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov)>; Elizabeth Klein <[Elizabeth\\_Klein@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Elizabeth_Klein@ios.doi.gov)>; Thompson, Dionne <[DEThompson@usbr.gov](mailto:DEThompson@usbr.gov)>  
**Subject:** FINAL DOI/Reclamation Gold King Mine Report - Embargoed for Public Release to 2PM

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of the Interior, I am transmitting the final Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident, prepared by USBRs Technical Service Center in Lakewood, Colorado.

The 132-page report will be distributed this afternoon at 1:00 pm EDT in a pre-notification to interested States, Tribes and Congress. It will be released to the public at 2:00 pm EDT. The url for the report on our site will be activated at 1:00 pm. That URL will be at [www.usbr.gov/docs/goldkingminereport.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/docs/goldkingminereport.pdf) but the shortened URL <http://on.doi.gov/1RdRhD6> will be used to share the report.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

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Dan DuBray

Chief, Public Affairs

Commissioner's Office

Bureau of Reclamation

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